

**ABSTRACT**

A data communication apparatus, comprising an interface for enabling communication with a remote entity via a network and a control entity in communication with said interface.

- 5 The control entity is operative to establish a packet-switched connection with the remote entity through the network and to negotiate with the remote entity using in-band signaling entry into a codec-bypass mode of operation. In this way, a codec-bypass connection, which enhances speech quality, can be established over a packet network, which reduces bandwidth.